

# RES13-022

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 4, 2013

#3806

**Sponsors:**

**Council  
President  
Gregory**

**Council  
Member  
M. Brown**

**Co-Sponsors:**

**Council  
Members  
Cabrera  
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Chukwuocha  
D. Brown  
Dorsey Walker  
Williams  
Freel  
Walsh**

**WHEREAS**, James M. Baker arrived in Wilmington in 1966 via a Greyhound bus on an assignment as a VISTA community worker; and

**WHEREAS**, from that non-descript arrival nearly 50 years ago until the present day, James M. Baker emerged, through his decades of community involvement, as one of the most respected and admired public figures in the history of the City of Wilmington; and

**WHEREAS**, James M. Baker's knowledge and history of the people of Wilmington earned him the trust of the public he served for 12 years as a District City Council Member, 16 years as President of Wilmington City Council and 12 years as Mayor of Wilmington; and

**WHEREAS**, James M. Baker was the first African American to be elected President of Wilmington City Council and is the only Mayor in the history of our City to serve three consecutive four-year terms; and

**WHEREAS**, James M. Baker's early public service career was highlighted by accomplishments such as an effort to revitalize Wilmington's historic Riverfront, creation of the City's rainy day budget reserve to safeguard against fiscal crises, tax exemptions for senior residents, the Wilmington Home Ownership Program, the Design Review Commission, the Advisory Commission on Minority Affairs, legislation outlawing discrimination, and the establishment of the Wilmington Civil Rights Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, James M. Baker's tenure as Mayor will be forever remembered for its strong fiscal management initiatives, a stabilization and strengthening of

Wilmington's neighborhoods through increased homeownership, new and expanded business development, continued development of the City's riverfronts and adoption of Wilmington's first-ever greening program—all of which will produce benefits for the City long into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, James M. Baker's mayoral terms in office resulted in a period of growth and prosperity not seen in the City of Wilmington since World War II, and his energy, creativity, and passion to serve resulted in a remarkable legacy that will long support and inspire generations of Wilmingtonians.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that Council deems it necessary and proper to name the newly constructed City Council Conference Room in honor of former Mayor and City Council President, James M. Baker.

Passed by City Council,  
April 4, 2013

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 3<sup>rd</sup>  
day of April, 2013.

Thomas P. Carney  
Assistant City Solicitor